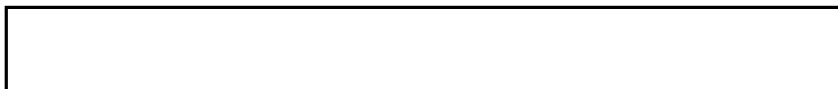


24 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator Strom Thurmond
4:00 p.m. - 24 August 1967

RE : (1)



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(2) S.1035

1. Senator Thurmond was very cordial but very firm in his expression of views on Subject 1, stressing that he had to have an answer in writing. When I pressed him as to why particularly, he indicated that he had received inquiries from constituents and he wished to have a clear record upon which to base his replies. I explained the dilemma which faced us in this decision, pointing out that it was very distasteful for the Director but in view of the Presidential policy on the one hand, the terms of the occupancy agreement on the other hand, it appeared to us to be the best arrangement we could make [REDACTED] I expanded the explanation to include the line of argumentation contained in my draft letter on this subject. Senator Thurmond appeared to find this explanation reasonable under the circumstances but also expressed

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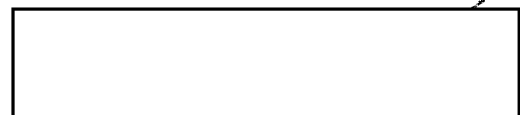
Senator Thurmond then questioned our legal right to dispose of government property and I pointed out to him that we do have such a right by virtue of our exemption from the General Services Administration Act. He ended this part of the conversation with a reiteration of the fact that he felt he had to have these explanations in writing.

2. Turning to S.1035, I told him that I thought his position on it was running serious risk of forcing the CIA into accepting undesirable employees and opening us to highly undesirable public proceedings on the part of disgruntled employees or rejected applicants. He said he could understand how this would cause us some trouble but pointed out there are provisions in the Bill which permitted the Director personally to waive some of its requirements. I said that this is entirely impracticable owing to the fact that the Director can't possibly be expected to give the amount of time and attention to each individual case that would be required by the Bill.

The Senator adverted to the questioning conducted in interviews and polygraph tests and said that he considered that the CIA had abused privacy in its line of questioning. In response to this I said I thought the provisions of the Bill could be altered so as to permit the Director to approve a general line of questioning in dealing with applicants rather than authorizing each specific case. The Senator said he considered this worth thinking about as a possible means of altering the terms of the Bill but reiterated that he felt the CIA had abused the use of the polygraph and other interviews by asking questions about the normal sex life of its applicants and employees. He emphasized that he agreed that we should take all necessary steps to eliminate homosexuals and undesirables and suggested that I talk to Senator Ervin, whose Bill it was anyway.

I got the impression from his expressions of his views on S.1035 that his position is open to adjustment. He did, however, repeatedly stress the need to take these matters up with Ervin and not him.

3. Our discussion lasted only about 20 minutes as the Senator was called away before we could explore either of the two subjects mentioned above adequately.



THOMAS D. FORT
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director

cc: Director
Executive Director-Comptroller
Legislative Counsel

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